

A FATAL FIRE.

Nineteen People Burned to Death and Forty Injured

IN EAST NEW YORK.

Many Acts of Bravery Performed by the Firemen and Others. Fire Chief Crockers Asserts that the Police and Tenement House Department Are Liable.

In New York on Tuesday morning of last week before daylight nineteen persons were burned to death in a fire which destroyed the five story tenement house at 105 Allen street. More than 40 were injured and only a few of the sleeping inmates escaped unhurt. Several of those who perished were rushed to death in plain view of thousands in the streets. Corner Goldenkrans declared after an investigation that he had reason to believe the blaze was the work of an incendiary. The fire started in the basement and spread with frightful rapidity to the roof. The victims were caught in traps of flames, the hall exits being rendered impassable in a few minutes after the blaze started.

The building was one of the usual crowded tenements and the disaster was the worst in the history of the East Side. The district attorney's office has begun an investigation to place the blame for the great loss of life. Chief Crockers of the fire department asserts that the police and the tenement house departments are to blame for the violations of the fire escape law. The tenement house department officials, however, say that the blame is on the shoulders of the fire commission.

Of the 19 dead, three bodies, those of a boy and two girls, remain unidentified. The identified dead are: Rachel Solomon, 45 years; Jacob Solomon, 16; Isaac Solomon, 18; Jesse Cohen, 16; Gershon Fuchs, 30; Rose Wiener, 32; Sancy Wiener, 4; Sarah Kline, 60; Bessie Zinner, 30; Harry Zinder, 11; Ida Muskowitz, 10; Harry Kauffman, 10; Rose Miller, 4; Morris Miller, five months old. Crowded fire escapes in the rear of the tenement house were largely responsible for so many deaths and injuries among its population, which approached 200 souls.

HEARTRENDING SCENES. The scenes were heartrending. The fire started in the basement occupied by Isaac Davis, his wife and three children. When Davis reached his home early Tuesday morning and went into his store on the same floor he saw a kerosene lamp in the rear of the store. He awoke his wife and both tried to put out the flame and both without success. A policeman who heard the cry of alarm rushed to the scene and every effort was made to rouse the sleeping people. Meantime the flames had spread with startling rapidity and the occupants of the upper floors awoke to find themselves confronted by a wall of flames on nearly every side. Panic stricken people rushed to the fire escapes only to find them littered with rubbish. On some of the escapes the rubbish was so closely packed that it became impossible to pass certain points where men, women and children were literally crushed with an unconscious woman, but staggered and was barely saved from death. Once Bonner rescued a little girl from a window where she stood surrounded by flames. She pleaded with him to leave her on the escape and go in after her little brother who she said had fallen unconscious. Bonner then jumped into what looked like a furnace, found the boy and saved him. Fireman Hannan repeated Bonner's feat on the third floor. Death reaped a harvest quickly on the fire escapes. In the rear two men and two women were descending, the men helping the women to remove heavy obstacles from the escapes. Suddenly flames darted from the third floor windows and the quartet fell and roasted to death. Another person with clothes afire was following but likewise sank in the flames. On top of one fire escape lay three bodies, Mrs. Solomon and her two sons, Isaac and Jacob. They had been overcome by the flames. Two others of the Solomon family were near to fall from the windows and then fall back in the burning building. The elder Solomon, the husband and father, was rescued. As the rescued recognized the charred bodies of their loved ones they wept and cried agonizingly. The streets were filled with a crowd of people, many of them people, imploring the rescue of those within the burning structure. When the tenants dashed for the roof, they found the door, which should have swung easily open, fastened down. Unable to burst it open, and wedged in by the burning mass below, numbers were burned to death.

MANY HEROIC RESCUES. Four times he brought down a woman, a child and an arm. The first time he was descending with an unconscious woman, but staggered and was barely saved from death. Once Bonner rescued a little girl from a window where she stood surrounded by flames. She pleaded with him to leave her on the escape and go in after her little brother who she said had fallen unconscious. Bonner then jumped into what looked like a furnace, found the boy and saved him. Fireman Hannan repeated Bonner's feat on the third floor. Death reaped a harvest quickly on the fire escapes. In the rear two men and two women were descending, the men helping the women to remove heavy obstacles from the escapes. Suddenly flames darted from the third floor windows and the quartet fell and roasted to death. Another person with clothes afire was following but likewise sank in the flames. On top of one fire escape lay three bodies, Mrs. Solomon and her two sons, Isaac and Jacob. They had been overcome by the flames. Two others of the Solomon family were near to fall from the windows and then fall back in the burning building. The elder Solomon, the husband and father, was rescued. As the rescued recognized the charred bodies of their loved ones they wept and cried agonizingly. The streets were filled with a crowd of people, many of them people, imploring the rescue of those within the burning structure. When the tenants dashed for the roof, they found the door, which should have swung easily open, fastened down. Unable to burst it open, and wedged in by the burning mass below, numbers were burned to death.

DEATHS BY THE DOOR. For the first time in fifty years the Democratic party elected their candidates for mayor on Monday in Augusta, Hildesford, Belfast and Brewer, all in the state of Maine.

THE BOLL WEEVIL.

The Director of the Georgia Station Gives Some Points.

Cotton Growers North and East of Texas Urged to Prepare for the Worst Now.

A dispatch from Washington to the Atlanta Journal says information received by officials of great value to cotton growers is contained in an article prepared by Colonel R. J. Redding, director of the Georgia experiment station, which is to be published in a few days as a special bulletin of the bureau of plant industry of the department of agriculture. This is to be known as Farmers' Bulletin No. 217. In his introduction Colonel Redding says:

"The Farmers' Bulletin No. 189, issued in 1904, it was stated that the work of the bureau of entomology for several years has demonstrated that there is not even a remote probability that the boll weevil will ever be exterminated, and that the steady extension of the territory affected by the weevil from year to year, until the northern boundary is far north of the center of cotton production in the United States, has convinced all observers that it will eventually be distributed all over the cotton belt. In ten years it has gradually advanced a distance of about 600 miles and will probably have reached the great mass of about the same rate. It is not at all likely that legal restriction of any kind would prevent or materially hinder this spread."

"These conclusions," Colonel Redding continues, "must be accepted as the highest authority, since they have been reached by qualified scientific investigators after careful laboratory and field experiments, conducted for several years on a large scale and in the older weevil-infested region of Texas. The matter is, therefore, a real problem confined to Texas and nearby states, but affects the entire cotton growing region."

"At the indicated rate of migration it is very probable that within ten or fifteen years every portion of the cotton-producing region will have been invaded. It is well, therefore, for the cotton growers northward and eastward of Texas to prepare for the worst by learning the methods that have been found effective in minimizing the ravages of the weevil, and such other remedies or palliatives as may be developed meanwhile, and be prepared to apply them whenever it shall become necessary. In view of the immense importance of the cotton crop, the subject has indeed become of national importance."

"The bulletin mentioned, however, gives assurance that although the very large yields of cotton of former times may no longer be possible, it is nevertheless entirely feasible to produce a crop of cotton of a profit that will compare favorably with that involved in the production of most of the staple crops of the United States by following what have become generally known as cultural methods."

"Among the most important of these methods are those directed toward securing an early development of the cotton plant and an early maturity of the largest possible proportion of the crop, and the object of this bulletin is to discuss the practical details which have been found necessary and effective in promoting early maturity."

TIE PASS LOST.

Japanese Are Pushing Russians Steadily On To Harbin.

THE JAPS REPULSED.

In His Masterly Retreat a Fertile and Well Supplied Country Lies Before Gen. Kuropatkin, With Few Defensible Positions in Reach of His Army.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says flanking tactics by the Japanese apparently are in progress again. The Associated Press correspondent, who remains at the Tie pass telegraphs that Gen. Mischenko on March 14 engaged a Japanese force on the Russian right. It is possible that the attacking force was a Japanese column which disappeared from observation during the battle of Mukden. The Japanese do not appear to have renewed the frontal attack up to noon Wednesday, the demonstration on Tuesday having shown that the Russians were prepared to make a determined resistance.

A dispatch from Santopou says a sanguinary combat occurred on March 14 on the centre advanced line of the Russian army against the south of the Tie pass. The Russians repulsed the attack and even made a small advance through 1,000 corpses of Japanese, advancing a large force on the right flank, where Gen. Mischenko, who has taken command of his detachment, is holding the Japanese in check. The Russian troops have regained their normal spirits and fought cheerfully.

NEARLY STARVED. The office of the censor has already been removed to Santopou, a point eight miles north of the Tie pass and there are intimations that it may soon be established even farther north. The Associated Press correspondent through a young nothing regarding the commissary arrangements for the troops, declares that the newspaper correspondents have practically been starved out of the Tie pass. This may, perhaps, be an indication of the amount of food available for the army, immense quantities of which were destroyed at Mukden, where practically the entire commissariat had been exterminated.

The office of the censor has been removed to Santopou, eight miles north of the Tie pass, as existence at Tie pass for civilians is almost impossible. Practically all the newspaper correspondents have left for Harbin. For several nights the Associated Press correspondent has slept without covering on the frosty ground and for two days he had nothing to eat. It is rumored that Chinese killed 80 foreigners in Mukden after the Russian evacuation of that place. According to Chinese reports the governor of Mukden served a banquet in honor of the Japanese generals after their triumphal entry into the city.

JAPS AT THE PASS. A dispatch from Tokio says the Japanese occupied the Tie pass at midnight, March 15. Details of the occupation of the Tie pass have not yet been received at Imperial headquarters. An official bulletin reports the action and that the Japanese are in hot pursuit of the retreating Russians, but it does not mention any particulars about the fight.

A dispatch from Harbin says the Japanese have abandoned the Tie pass. An official bulletin reports the action and that the Japanese are in hot pursuit of the retreating Russians, but it does not mention any particulars about the fight.

RUSSIAN ARMY PUZZLED. A dispatch from St. Petersburg says with the evacuation of the Tie pass Wednesday night the Russian army abandoned the last stronghold in southern Manchuria in haste. At last, no other strategy is possible for Gen. Kuropatkin in view of his scanty supplies of ammunition, and stores the shattered condition of his army and wide enveloping movements which the Japanese have continued almost without a stop since the Russian defeat at Mukden.

SOCIAL STATUS.

Of the Races Legally Considered by the Supreme Court.

A LIBEL DECISION.

Man as a Negro. Amendments to Constitution Have No Effect in Regard to Social Relations.

The Columbia Record says a very interesting and important decision was rendered by the supreme court on Wednesday morning. It is decided that a newspaper to publish that a white man is a negro is defamatory to the white man, and the newspaper making the publication is liable to a suit for damages. The case was that of an appeal on the part of Mr. Augustus M. Flood, of Charleston, a libel suit having been instituted by him against The News and Courier and The Evening Post, of Charleston, for damages in the sum of \$10,000 because he was referred to as being a negro.

The case is stated as follows: Mr. Flood is a white man and a citizen of Charleston, where it was alleged, he always enjoyed the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens, the same having been of value in his business and a source of pride and pleasure to him in his social life. The complaint further alleges that the News and Courier and The Evening Post published and circulated articles in regard to a suit entered against him by a colored man for damages for injuries and referred to him as a colored man. By reason of being published as being a negro, Mr. Flood claimed that the statement tended to exclude him from society and by reason of said false and defamatory publication this plaintiff has been injured in his reputation and hurt in his feelings to his damage \$10,000.

In answer to the complaint it was denied that the publication was defamatory or that any legal damage was suffered therefrom, it being claimed that under the provisions of the XIII, XIV and XV amendments to the constitution of the United States and of the provisions of the constitution of South Carolina, the use of the word "colored" in application to any one is not libelous nor defamatory.

This demurrer having been sustained by the presiding judge, an appeal was taken on the grounds that the judge erred in holding that the application "negro" or its equivalent, "colored," when applied to a white man is not libelous per se. That the law in this state, before the adoption of the XIII, XIV and XV amendments to the constitution of the United States was that the term "negro" or "colored," when applied to a white person, was libelous per se, in that it tended to exclude him from society. His honor erred in holding that this had been changed so that the negro's social status was not affected by the amendments, whereas it is submitted that only the negro's legal and political status has been affected thereby.

The supreme court says: "The only question presented by this appeal is, 'Is it libelous per se to publish a white man as a negro?' To call a white man a negro is libelous per se, whether or not any white man so referred to. Authorities are quoted on this point and the court continues: 'When we stop to think of the racial distinction subsisting between the white man and the black man, it must be apparent that to impute the condition of a negro to a white man would be to impute to the white man a social status which only the negro's legal and political status has been affected thereby.'

In Sander vs. West Virginia, the court held that these amendments, XIII, XIV and XV, were designed to accord members of the negro race the same protection in life, liberty and property which was already enjoyed by the white race. Railroads by sale of stock in that case refer to the social relations of each race. The statute laws of this state forbids the association of the two races, in such a way it excludes the negro from white society and vice versa. By the miscegenation statutes, the intermarriage of the two races is forbidden and made a crime. Railroads by sale of stock to furnish separate cars for the two races. White children and colored children are forbidden to attend the same school. Various opinions are quoted to show that publishing a white man as a negro has been held to be libelous by various courts.

COTTON HOLDING.

Company Organized at New Orleans, La., Last Week.

Officers Elected and Plans Perfectioned to Take Two Million Bales Off the Market.

The Atlanta Journal says John D. Walker, secretary and treasurer of the Southern Planters' executive committee and treasurer of the Georgia division of the Southern Cotton association, has returned from New Orleans, where the organization of the Planters' Cotton Holding and Commission company was perfected, officers elected and plans made for at the proper time retiring two million bales of cotton from the market until October.

The following officers were elected: W. P. Brown, of New Orleans, fourth vice president; H. J. Jordan, first vice president; B. S. Peters, second vice president; A. Brittan, third vice president; S. P. Walmesley, fourth vice president. The secretary and treasurer will be named at a meeting of the directors in New Orleans on the first of October.

The following were elected directors in the Planters' Cotton Holding and Commission company and subscribed for the \$3,000 worth of stock necessary to secure a charter: Alabama—H. Y. Brooke, A. M. Hill, L. B. Farley. Georgia—Harvie Jordan, Hoke Smith, John D. Walker, M. O. Gay. Louisiana—W. P. Brown, W. L. Foster, A. Brittan, S. P. Walmesley, F. L. Maxwell. Mississippi—Walter Clarke, S. P. Walmesley, John Bernheimer. North Carolina—J. A. Brown, J. P. Aspin. South Carolina—E. D. Smith, W. S. Lippcomb. Tennessee—W. T. Bowdre. Texas—J. F. Hickey, J. S. Davis, R. R. Dancy, E. S. Peters, F. M. Green. Oklahoma—L. B. Irwin. Indian Territory—G. W. York. Arkansas—Dr. L. E. Love, J. J. Serogins.

The following executive committee was appointed: W. P. Brown, A. Brittan, S. P. Walmesley, W. L. Foster, Harvie Jordan, John D. Walker, E. S. Peters.

This executive committee will direct the company and have active charge of the cotton holding movement. The meeting in New Orleans, which was held Friday and Saturday was an enthusiastic one and the greatest faith is expressed in the ability of the company to accomplish the ends for which it was organized. Mr. Walker who attended the meeting, speaks interestingly of the organization.

"The company will not begin operating," said he, "until \$100,000 has been paid in. Ten million dollars worth of stock will be sold at \$1 a share and the directors are confident that there will be a ready sale of this stock. The stock is to be offered to the states in proportion to the amount of cotton raised by them. The banks will be made the trustees for this stock and in each county the president of the local organization will be the agent to sell it."

"There will be no effort made to take cotton off of the market in any great quantity until May the first. By that time the farmers will have demonstrated whether they are cutting down the acreage. If the acreage is cut down, as agreed then two million bales will immediately be taken off of the market. If the cotton were taken up there would be danger of the acreage not being reduced."

COTTON B. ORTS.

Will Issue Them in Future.

Absolutely correct statistics of the cotton crop will be one of the main features of work to be done by the Southern Cotton association. Reports will be issued through the press of the country every ten days telling of the condition of the crop, the number of bales ginned and general crop conditions. The association will have reports of its own, and will not depend on the hearsay reports of the government. President Harvie Jordan has written an article on the subject of statistics which will be read with great interest. Mr. Jordan says: "One of the most important and valuable features in connection with the work of the Southern Cotton association will be its ability and opportunity to gather correct statistics of the cotton crop of the cotton crop of the South. Since the wide agitation of the cotton question during the last three months through the general press of the country and the opportunities of the farmers to get information quickly through the establishment of rural delivery routes, and the growing interest in securing information, it is highly important that they be placed in possession of all the information possible which relates to the handling of the great staple crop in which they are so deeply interested as producers. At the present time there is a widespread and general demand for some definite information in cotton acreage and use of commercial fertilizers, the detailed plans of retiring the 2,000,000 bales surplus and also the extent of and the present temper of the farmers to continue to hold their cotton for better prices."

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A Fatal Fight. As the result of a quarrel, Earl Carpenter shot and killed A. M. Kile at Harbin, N. C., Wednesday afternoon. Before the fatal bullet was fired, Kile shot Carpenter who is an unconscious condition and is expected to die. Kile was the superintendent of the Nims Manufacturing company at Mount Holly and was about 35 years old. Carpenter is a son of O. D. Carpenter, the owner of the Harbin cotton mill, and is about 21 years of age. He was arrested over the employment of mill work, when they met in the public road near Harbin a fight ensued. Both men were well known citizens of G. S. county. After Kile fired his revolver he was shot several times by Carpenter, the bullets taking effect in the head and other places. Death resulted immediately.

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Wrecked Near Spartanburg. Passenger train No. 10, bound for Columbia from Asheville, was wrecked two and a half miles from Spartanburg, a short distance from the junction of the two main lines. The train was slightly derailed by the crossing of the train crew and the passengers escaped with a considerable injury. The locomotive was turned over and the tender blocks the main line. The mail coach jumped the track, but the other coaches are standing on the main line. The accident was caused by the locomotive splitting the switch. At the time the train was slowly speeding along, approaching the first of a series of switches on the Asheville road leading into the junction. Engineer Love jumped and escaped unharmed. In jumping fireman Cannon sustained some painful scratches and bruises.

A Great Light. St. Catherine's Lighthouse, on the south coast of the Isle of Wight, has just been provided with a new light of 15,000,000 candle power as against 5,000,000 of the old light apparatus. Seen from the land there are three distinct beams of light revolving in view, one just on the point of disappearing behind the "blank" or shield, while the others pass rapidly over the waters of the English channel.

A NEW CHIEF.

Linevitch Relieves Kuropatkin of Command of Army.

HE WAS TOO SLOW.

New Armies Will be Raised and Efforts Will be Made to Put Effective Force in the Field to Meet and Overcome the Japanese Armies Under Oyama.

A dispatch from St. Petersburg says with the Japanese hanging on the heels and flanks of the remnants of the broken, defeated Russian army Gen. Kuropatkin, the idol of the private soldier, has been dismissed and disgraced and Gen. Linevitch, commander of the First army, appointed to succeed him in command of all the Russian land and sea forces operating against the Japanese. The word disgrace, written in large letters in a laconic imperial order, which is gazetted and which contained not a single word of praise, disposes of the rumor that Kuropatkin asked to be relieved.

Russian military annals contain no more bitter imperial rebuke. Emperor Nicholas upon the advice of Gen. Dragomiroff and War Minister Sakharoff, determined the step necessary when it became apparent Wednesday that Kuropatkin, while concentrating for a stand at Tie Pass, seemed unaware that the Japanese had worked around Westward again and allowed himself to be surprised. Old reports brought by Gen. Gripenberg, regarding Kuropatkin's falling mentally, also influenced the decision.

Linevitch has been able to bring off his army in order after the battle of Mukden. Kuropatkin will return to St. Petersburg forthwith. The task confined to Linevitch of withdrawing the remnant of the army of 350,000 to Harbin is desperate. He is hemmed in all sides. Gen. Kawamura is presumably pressing onward ready to sweep down, and Gans. Nogai and Oku are on the west of the Russian forces, while the railroad is threatened if not already out and Chinese bandits are reported in rear of Harbin. The continuation of the Mukden disaster is feared.

It is feared the decimated battalions have again been thrown into confusion by Oyama's relentless and almost merciless pursuit. The war office fears that more of the slain and field guns which Kuropatkin saved at Mukden have been sacrificed in the flight from home. A division of the imperial guard will be sent to the front. Some of this year's conscript may be sent as a separate army to be organized under Gens. Grodekoff, Gripenberg and Kamoroff. General mobilization is likely to be accompanied by widespread disorders unless the conscription and function of popular representation under the imperial rescript are more satisfactory than now appears probable. The Emperor twice postponed action on Governor Bouligan's recommendations.

Killed while Hunting. A dispatch from Greenville to The State says Dudley Hunter, aged 14 years, shot and instantly killed his young friend, Patrick Davis, Friday morning in Glassy Mountain township. The shooting was said to have been purely accidental. The two boys were out hunting with young Davis' father and another young man and they had stopped on the side of the road for a short rest. When they started again young Hunter picked up his gun and in some way the hammer was caught and the gun was discharged, the shot badly hitting the bird shot entering Davis' head. Death was instantaneous. Hunter immediately telephoned Sheriff Gilreath, who telephoned J. C. Fisher of that place to bring the young man to Greenville. Hunter is held there awaiting the verdict of the coroner's jury.

Said to be Dead. The Charleston Post says a colored man by the name of Norman Brown fell into a vat of boiling water at the Charleston Basket and Veneer Manufacturing Company's factory and was scalded so badly that he died Friday night in the hospital from the effects of his injuries. Brown was engaged in getting out one of the logs which are kept in a vat outside of the factory to be softened by the boiling water for use, when he slipped on the vat, lost his balance and fell side wise into the scalding water. The fact that he was not killed at once was made possible by the presence of a thickly massed log in the vat, which is about fifteen by twenty feet in area.

They Will Succeed. E. D. Smith of South Carolina, financial agent of the Cotton Growers association is making speeches in Alabama in the interest of reduction of taxes. He says reports from Texas and Indian Territory indicate that the reduction will be more than 25 per cent.

A Spendthrift. The Marquis of Angely of Bangor, Wales, died at Monte Carlo on Tuesday. He was a young man, remarkably chivalry for having spent a fortune of \$2,500,000, in addition to an annual income of \$50,000, in the course of six years.